

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 31, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 31, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

In the specification, the title was objected to for not being descriptive of the claimed invention. The title has been amended to be more descriptive. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

Claims 1-12 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-12 are rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claims 5, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 5, 7, and 8 have been amended to overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wang* (U.S. Patent No. 6,175,922). Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wang*, in view of *Cambier* (U.S. Patent No. 6,532,298). Claims 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wang*, in view of *Katz* (U.S. Patent No. 5,495,284).

In response, Applicant herewith asserts priority to U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 09/260,384 ("Parent"), filed March 2, 1999. (See Application, para. [0001].) Support for claims 1-12 may be found in the Parent at pg. 10, line 6—pg. 20, line 25. *Wang* was filed March 13, 2000. Therefore, *Wang* is not prior art pursuant to 35 USC §102. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

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In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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